

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00814 201920Z

70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /077 W

----- 012737

R 191305Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4171

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, ET

SUBJECT: AVIATION NEWS - ASMARA

1. ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES DC-6 MADE CRASH LANDING AT ASMARA AIRPORT
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13TH. PLANE HAD TAKEN OFF FROM TESSENNEY WITH ONE
OF FOUR ENGINES NOT FUNCTIONING. AS IT TOOK OFF, ONE WHEEL
ASSEMBLY DROPPED OFF. PLANE WAS EMPTY, HAVING BEEN UNLOADED
AFTER ENGINE TROUBLE DISCOVERED, AND WAS ENROUTE TO ASMARA FOR
REPAIRS. PLANE MADE WHEELS DOWN LANDING - MINUS ONE - SPUN AROUND
AND SKIDDED TO STOP. ONLY MINOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE RESULTED IN LANDING.

ASMARA CIVIL AVIATION OFFICE HAD REQUESTED AND WAS PROVIDED
ASSISTANCE FROM KAGNEW STATION FIRE DEPARTMENT. SOURCE AT EAL
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00814 201920Z

INFORMED REPORTING OFFICER THAT EAL HAD PREVIOUSLY GROUNDED ALL

DC-6 AIRCRAFT FOR OVERDUE MAINTENANCE BUT HAD BEEN ORDERED BY GOVERNMENT TO FLY THEM. DAMAGED DC-6 STILL ON SIDE OF RUNWAY WITH REPAIR CREWS WORKING ON IT. CARGO UNLOADED WAS COTTON.

2. CONGEN ALSO RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT DC-3 CRASHED APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS FROM ASMARA. EAL SOURCE SAID PLANE WAS NOT EAL PLANE. ORIGINAL REPORT FROM AMERICAN VISITING FRIEND IN HOSPITAL WITH NEXT BED OCCUPIED BY CIVILIAN BADLY BURNED. PATIENT SAID HE WAS IN DC-3 CRASH. CAUSE OF CRASH OR NUMBER OF VICTIMS NOT KNOWN. WE HAVE HEARD RUMOR THAT DC-3 WAS SHOT DOWN IN DIRECTION OF TESSENNEY, PRESUMABLY ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE DC-3.

3. DUE TO AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE AT ASMARA AIRPORT, ADMAS AIRLINES CHARTER SERVICE HAS GROUNDED ITS AIRPLANES. IN ADDITION, EAL DC-3 SERVICE CARRYING LIGHTER LOADS AND ARE REFUELING AT GONDAR. THIS HAS CUT OFF MASSAWA AND SMALL VILLAGE AIR SERVICES.

4. WHILE SPEAKING TO EAL MANAGER ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS FROM ATHENS STOPPING AT ASMARA (PRETEXT USED DISCUSS OTHER ITEMS) WAS INFORMED ASMARA WILL HAVE THREE INBOUND FLIGHTS FROM ATHENS (MONDAY, TUESDAY AND SUNDAY) AND TWO FROM ROME (MONDAY AND TUESDAY). THURSDAY ROME/ASMARA STOP BEING DISCONTINUED. MANAGER APPEALING TO ADDIS ABABA SINCE HE FEELS MOST TRAFFIC COMES FROM ROME , NOT ATHENS, AND DOES NOT WANT THURSDAY FLIGHT OVER-FLY ASMARA. THERE ARE OTHER SCHEDULED STOPS WHICH WILL SERVICE ASMARA AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN WEEK OR SO, TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1.
KLOTZBACH

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Message Attributes

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